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January 28, 2004

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Attorney Docket No.: 00167-352002

Web Site  
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**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

17548 U.S.PTO  
10/1766375



Presented for filing is a new continuation patent application of:

FR

BOSTON

DALLAS

DELAWARE

NEW YORK

SAN DIEGO

SILICON VALLEY

TWIN CITIES

WASHINGTON, DC

Applicant: ERNEST A. DION, RONALD A. MAYVILLE, JOOP F. HOEKSTRA  
AND JOHN L. O'BRIEN

Title: MAKING CLOSED END TUBES FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

The prior application is assigned of record to Smith & Nephew, Inc.,  
a Delaware corporation, by virtue of an assignment submitted to the Patent and  
Trademark Office and recorded on December 20, 1999 at Reel 010495, Frame 0156.Enclosed are the following papers, including those required to receive a filing date  
under 37 CFR §1.53(b):

	<u>Pages</u>
Specification	22
Claims	8
Abstract	1
Declaration	2
Drawing(s)	9

## Enclosures:

- Preliminary amendment, 6 pages.
- Information Disclosure Statement, 1 page, and Form PTO-1449, 2 pages,  
listing documents cited in the parent application. Please confirm that these  
have been considered in this application by returning a copy of the Form  
PTO-1449 with the examiner's initials.
- Postcard.

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail Label No. EV 304818840 USDate of Deposit January 28, 2004

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

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This application is a continuation (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC 120) of U.S. application serial no. 09/399,596, filed September 20, 1999. The disclosure of the prior application is considered part of (and is incorporated by reference in) the disclosure of this application.

Basic filing fee	\$770
Total claims in excess of 20 times \$18	\$36
Independent claims in excess of 3 times \$86	\$86
Fee for multiple dependent claims	\$0
Total filing fee:	\$892

A check for the filing fee is enclosed. Please apply any other required fees or any credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the attorney docket number shown above.

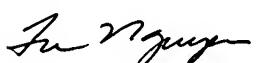
If this application is found to be incomplete, or if a telephone conference would otherwise be helpful, please call the undersigned at (617) 542-5070.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this application by returning the enclosed postcard.

Please direct all correspondence to the following:

26161  
PTO Customer Number

Respectfully submitted,



Tu N. Nguyen  
Reg. No. 42,934

Enclosures

TXN/cxb  
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